

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the paragraph at page 2, lines 16-21, as follows:

Usually, the image recording apparatus records the ink dots D with the even arrangement as a whole as shown in FIG. 12. It is to be noted that reference character ~~SD~~ MD denotes the main scan direction and reference character SD designates the sub scan direction in FIG. 12.

Please amend the paragraph at page 20, line 18 to page 21, line 4, as follows:

The detection mechanism 60 is arranged outside the image recording area of the recording heads 20. In other words, the detection mechanism 60 is arranged at a position where it does not face the recording medium in a movable area of the recording heads 20 along the main scan direction. In this specification, a set position of the detection mechanism 60 is referred to as an inspection area. This inspection area is an area in which the detection mechanism 60 detects an ejection defect. It is to be noted that the carriage 30 ~~inverts~~ reverses the movement direction in the main scan direction outside the image recording area. Therefore, it can be the that the inspection area is ~~an inversion~~ a reversing drive area in which the carriage 30 is operated to be ~~inverted~~ reversed.